

L.B. Havering - Family and Friends Foster Care Procedure - Placement of a Looked After Child with a Connected Person (Family & Friends)
Flowchart

Day 1

Decision that child becomes looked after
Connected person is identified
Childs Social Worker visits Connected Person to establish suitability to place the child same day.

Immediate checks (phone police check) and inspection of home and suitability of carers undertaken- Refer to Social Work checklist – criteria for same day placements.
If deemed suitable by social worker and Team Manager
suitability for immediate placement approval report submitted to Service Manager for approval as temporary Foster Carer. Connected Person advised they are approved as a temporary Foster Carer until a further assessment is undertaken to establish suitability to continue with the arrangement. LAC notification sent to CCU
Temporary approval granted -

Day 2 - 4

If child remains LAC - Fostering Admin invite applicant to attend Mercury House to complete statutory checks and meet Fostering assessing/ SSW. Written agreement signed by connected person.
F&F information leaflet given to carers. Emergency financial support provided if necessary.

Day 2 - 7 If child is to remain LAC

i. Regulation 24 assessment undertaken by Fostering Social Worker using ' Assessment Report for Temporary Approval as a Family and Friends Foster Carer ' format.
If assessment positive, by Day 7 case to be presented to ADM by fostering sw and childs sw for consideration of continued temporary approval as a foster carer for named child. Report to be submitted to LAC Panel 2 days before meeting.
Carer approved by LAC Panel/HOS. If placement assessed as not suitable to continue, child's social worker and manager to be advised to decide whether to end placement and make alternative arrangements . Parents advised, seek legal advice if section 20 and permission not given to change placement
ii. If positive, placement planning meeting arranged within 5 working days of placement unless plan to cease placement

Day 8

Once continued approval granted , full fostering assessment to be completed within 16 weeks ; Family & Friends Approval or SGO assessment 10 / 12 weeks according to legal status / Care Plan
Child and placement to be visited weekly until fully approved/ child discharged ceases to be LAC.

Full equipment provided.
Case booked for Fostering Panel.

Week 4 - 6

Placement/assessment review meeting convened by Fostering Service virtual or actual meeting depending on case progress

Week 10 -16

Assessment completed – Single assessment template Presentation to Fostering Panel by child's social worker and assessing fostering sw. (subject to all checks cleared)
Full Family and Friends approval granted / Case presented in court SGO/ RO granted.
Placement ends if / when child ceases to be LAC